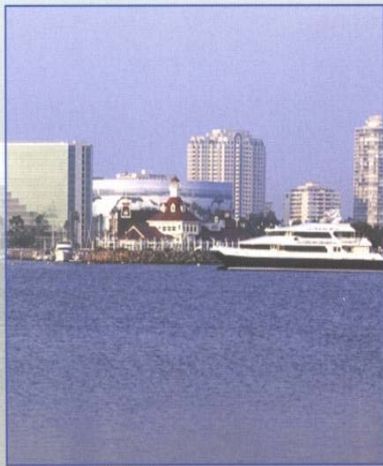


City of Long Beach  
Department of Health  
& Human Services

## Bureau of Environmental Health



## Water Quality Program:

Recreational Water  
Safety



WORKING  
TOGETHER  
TO SERVE

### What you can do to help keep our beach water clean

- Do not litter. Throw trash away before leaving the area.
- Keep Infants and toddlers in diapers out of recreational water.
- Do not over water or over fertilize your lawn; use natural products if available.
- Do not let toxic liquids, like oil, fuel or paint, enter storm drains.
- Use less toxic pesticides or use natural products.
- Pick up after your pets and properly dispose of their waste in trash cans.
- Wash your vehicle on your lawn instead of your driveway or street and use soap products that are safe for the environment.
- Recycle paper and plastic items.
- Take household toxic products to hazardous waste facilities. Call 562-570-2876 for locations.
- Organize and/or participate in a beach clean-up day. Call 562-570-1471 for more information.
- Report any illegal dumping into storm drains. Call 1-888-Clean-LA.



### Water Quality Program

Our goal is to maintain clean and safe water for recreational use through monitoring and testing, and through increased community awareness and education regarding water quality, storm drain runoff, and illegal discharge into our storm drains.



#### SERVICE NUMBERS

Recreational Water (562) 570-4134

Beach Advisory & Closure Hotline (562) 570-4199

#### Website

To view beach advisories and closures for the City of Long Beach, visit [www.ci.long-beach.ca.us/health](http://www.ci.long-beach.ca.us/health)

Office hours: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Beach Advisory and Closure Hotline is available 24 hours a day.

City of Long Beach  
Department of Health & Human Services  
Bureau of Environmental Health  
2525 Grand Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90815

## Water Quality Program

The City of Long Beach has approximately seven miles of public beach along its shoreline. To ensure that beaches and other recreational waters such as marina, bay, and harbor waters in the City maintain a high level of water quality, the Department of Health and Human Services' Water Quality Program routinely samples and tests recreational water to ensure that bacteria levels meet the State of California standards for cleanliness and safety.

## Beach Advisory

A Beach Advisory is in effect during and after rainstorms. During rainstorms, water discharging into the ocean may contain excessive amounts of bacteria from a variety of sources, such as animal waste and decomposing vegetation.

Generally, the levels of bacteria can rise significantly in the ocean and bay waters close to storm drains and the outlets of creeks and rivers during and after rain. High levels of bacteria may continue for at least three days, depending upon the intensity of the rain. **Swimmers are advised to avoid all recreational water contact for at least 72 hours after a**

**rainstorm.** During the non-rainy season, it is recommended that swimmers avoid water contact near all discharging storm drains or tributaries.

## Storm Drains

The storm drain system was designed to prevent flooding by safely carrying rain water to our lakes, rivers and ocean. If any trash or hazardous chemicals are dumped into the storm drain system, they can pollute our recreational water. To help ensure the safety and enjoyment of our recreational water, residents may assist the Health Department by keeping the storm drain free from pollutants such as:

- fuel and motor oil from leaking cars
- household cleaning products and paints
- paper and plastic items
- pesticide and fertilizer

## Waterborne Illnesses

Waterborne diseases are the result of drinking contaminated water. These contaminants can cause symptoms and illnesses which may last for several days. If you suspect that your symptoms are due to contaminated water, visit your physician and mention any exposure to contaminated water.

Common symptoms associated with exposure to contaminated water include:

- vomiting, diarrhea, nausea
- fever, chills
- skin rash
- ear, nose, throat infections



## Warning Signs

If you see this sign at any beach water site in the City of Long Beach, maintain a distance of at least 25 yards from all four sides of the sign.

Signs will be removed when water resample results are below the state bacteriological standards.

